REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claim 5 is amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Further, subject matter of the canceled multiple dependencies is also now set forth in new dependent claims 7-12.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Suurd Sochos

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\la I:\atty\SNS\278315us-pr.doc Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423